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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

25-27 July 1985

Meeting held at

Hotel Bauen
Buenos Aires, Argentina

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Hotel Bauen
Buenos Aires, Argentina

25-27 July 1985

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The meeting convened at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, 25 July, 1985. The Moderator conducted the opening worship. Morning worship on subsequent days was led by Dr Talbot and Mr Piske.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending and presented apologies from Dame Nita Barrow, Patriarch Ignatios IV, Archbishop Makhulu, Dr Wilson, Mr Ashmall and Bishop Toth.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held in Geneva, 4-8 February 1985, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The proposed agenda and timetable were adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary began by speaking of the death on 4 July of the Honorary President, the Rev. Dr W.A. Visser't Hooft. It was proposed that the first morning worship period of the Central Committee should be a thanksgiving for his life and work, using many of the liturgical elements of the memorial service held in St Peter's Cathedral, Geneva, on 9 July.

Since members had received full written reports on activities since the last Central Committee meeting, the General Secretary highlighted only a few items.

A. Visits to churches

The General Secretary said that gradually the new model of relationships with churches through team visits was developing. Nineteen visits would take place either before or after the Central Committee meeting in Buenos Aires and nearly all member churches in Latin America would be visited. Since the last meeting of the Executive Committee there had also been many staff visits, and Dr Castro himself had visited member churches in Turkey, Greece, the Netherlands, USA, Mexico, South Korea, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Scotland and the Federal Republic of Germany. In all these places he had found growing interest among the press in the total work of the WCC and not only in its more dramatic aspects.

B. Contacts with governments and TNCs

During these journeys the General Secretary had met the Presidents of Greece, the FRG and Switzerland and also the heads of a number of transnational corporations (TNCs), including companies in Detroit, USA, with whom he had raised questions of their responsibility with regard to the problems of international debts of Third World countries and the situation in South Africa.

C. Visits to the Ecumenical Centre

Among the many visits by church authorities, groups and individuals, the General Secretary highlighted those of Jewish world organizations, during which the relationship between Jews and the State of Israel had been discussed; the Dalai Lama, who had spoken of the plight of his people and questions of world peace; and a group of 20 church leaders, 20 leaders of action groups and 20 journalists from the Netherlands who wanted information on all WCC programmes.

D. Public affairs

Several messages had been sent to the churches in South Africa in response to painful moments in their history, in an effort to convey the solidarity, prayers and anguish before God of churches around the world in the face of events in South Africa. A statement had been made on the mounting wave of violence in Sri Lanka, the appeal of the six State-Presidents for nuclear disarmament had been circulated and a letter sent to the churches on the 40th anniversary of the end of the Second World War.

E. Staffing

The General Secretary referred to two appointments made by the Officers and paid tribute to Mr Koshy who had been Acting Staff Moderator of Unit II, in addition to his responsibilities as Director of CCIA, since the beginning of 1985. Dr Castro also

spoke of the steadfastness of the staff of CICARWS and their readiness to respond to appeals from all corners of the earth.

F. Ecumenical Review

The General Secretary said he intended to make Ecumenical Review an instrument of the whole WCC. The first issue of 1985 was devoted to the WCC Basis. The current issue was on the 20th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, and future issues would cover questions of dialogue with people of other faiths, and spirituality. He asked the help of Executive Committee members in achieving a wider use of Ecumenical Review.

G. Work of Central Committee

The General Secretary said that in response to the request of the Executive Committee in February an attempt had been made to produce shorter reports and documents for Central Committee. Unit committees would receive substantial material on a limited number of issues. It was hoped that Central Committee would be able to have more theological discussion rather than a purely administrative role and that the theme of the meeting, "God's Justice - Promise and Challenge", would prove fruitful and lead to a message to the churches in addition to helping the study on Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation.

H. Relationships with South Africa

The General Secretary referred to the embargo on staff visits to South Africa which had been in force since before the Nairobi Assembly. In response to indications from some South African church leaders, it was now felt that the time had come to be a little more flexible and to experiment with a few visits if visas were granted, possibly leading to the establishment of new guidelines.

I. Priority-setting

The General Secretary concluded by speaking of the difficulty he found in responding to the request of Central Committee for a mechanism for the setting of priorities. There was now more clarity at unit and sub-unit levels than a year ago, and with the solving of a number of financial problems some of the earlier pressures had been removed. However, the challenge of a programmatic review remained and staff would continue to seek imaginative solutions.

* * *

In discussion Ms Skuse and others raised questions about WCC relationships with Jewish organizations which might be misinterpreted, particularly by member churches in the Middle East. The General Secretary pointed out that staff had been following

the guidelines for Christian-Jewish dialogue laid down some years ago. However, it might be helpful to provide further information about the different Jewish organizations. In response to requests for clarification about a possible change in policy regarding visits to South Africa, the General Secretary said that his concern was to open up direct negotiations with black leaders with regard to their future. The question would be discussed only in the context of the total struggle against apartheid. With regard to the question of TNCs, Dr Bührig said this was one of the major issues facing the First World. During her visit to Central America she had seen something of the harmful effects of TNCs. Dr Tolen stressed the need to keep the door open for dialogue with directors of TNCs. The General Secretary said that the UN was calling a meeting in September on TNCs and had invited the WCC to testify on TNCs and apartheid. Metropolitan Gregorios would represent the Council. He added that many TNC leaders were faithful church members and the WCC should have a pastoral concern for them while remaining true to its Christian convictions.

Bishop Hempel said that while the Ecumenical Review could be an instrument to make known the official views of the WCC, on many issues there was no common mind and the journal should reflect the pluralistic situation. The General Secretary felt that an overall view of the debate on such issues could help the churches to grow together. Mr Piske referred to the criticism of some member churches that the WCC sometimes works in their area without their knowledge and asked if this had been discussed during visits with church leaders. The General Secretary stressed his concern that as far as possible the WCC should work in full cooperation with local churches and Christian groups in order to help them to be the servant body of Christ.

3. PRELIMINARY REPORT ON FINANCIAL MATTERS

In the absence of Dr McCloud, the report was presented by Mr Coĭdan. With regard to 1984, the US dollar had continued to rise on exchange markets, closing at Sfr. 2.58, well above the budget rate. Income, including that from investments, was higher than expected, leading to a surplus of Sfr. 500,000 of undesignated funds and an overall surplus of Sfr. 2 million. WCC accounts had therefore closed without deficit for the third year in succession.

At the end of June 1985 expenses were 91% of budgeted expenses and it appeared that actual income might again exceed budgeted income. It was hoped that the year might close with balanced accounts.

Following the Executive Committee meeting in February, the 1986 proposed budget had been reviewed, taking into account the conditions laid down. A balanced budget was now proposed and would be reviewed by the Finance Sub-committee before presentation to Central Committee. The Finance Sub-committee would also consider

reports on the extension of the Ecumenical Centre, on alternative patterns of support by the member churches, and on the financing of the Seventh Assembly.

4. REPORT OF THE MODERATOR TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Moderator outlined the report he proposed to present to the Central Committee. The whole report, which was rather lengthy, would be distributed to participants, but Dr Held said he would omit some sections when presenting it.

5. REVIEW OF PROGRAMME AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The General Secretary presented the draft agenda and timetable for Central Committee, the arrangements for worship, and a number of special events. He said that mixed groups, composed of Central Committee members together with other participants, would meet for Bible study and discussion of the theme and of the Moderator's and General Secretary's reports. These groups would become a permanent feature of the Central Committee. Bishop Krister Stendahl would lead four Bible studies on the theme. Two changes in the programme as printed were noted and the proposed arrangements approved.

6. PROGRAMME MATTERS

A. Ideologies

Dr Gassmann presented a progress report which included discussion of the issue, the problem of defining ideologies, perspectives for further work and the perspectives on ideologies in the sub-units involved: CCPD, Women, Communication Department, CWME including URM, CCIA, Church and Society, PCR, Faith and Order, Dialogue, and Education. The staff task force tried to look at ideologies in a more comprehensive way than was possible for individual sub-units, and planned to work on criteria for evaluating ideologies to be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee. The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the report of the Programme Sub-committee as follows:

The progress report of the Staff Task Force on Ideologies is received as information. Appreciation is expressed for the work so far being done. The Sub-committee emphasizes that after this first, analytical stage of work, experiences and insights from churches should be brought in and that the crucial issue of a Christian and ecumenical evaluation of the nature and function of ideologies would have to be tackled. This should, hopefully, lead to some possible common ecumenical criteria and perspectives.

The Sub-committee recognizes that study on the relationship between Christian faith and its institutional expressions, on the one hand, and ideologies, on the other hand, has a twofold dimension:

i) disclosing and bringing to awareness that Christians, churches and also the WCC are not exempt from the influence and impact of ideologies and theological reflection on this reality;

ii) clarification of a Christian perspective on and attitude to ideologies seen as social forces which are distinct from Christian faith and its ecclesial expressions.

The Sub-committee notes that further work of the staff task force on the complex issue of ideologies will be supported by a staff person located in Unit II (CCPD) who will provide the necessary expertise and help as a Secretary.

The Sub-committee makes the following suggestions to further work:

a) collect contributions from member churches about their experiences in the area of ideologies as well as from studies on ideology outside the churches;

b) develop some indications and aids for recognizing our own ideological involvement and reflect on the theological implications of this;

c) include in further work a reflection on what can be called "secular ideology" as one of the most powerful and pervasive social forces in our world today.

The task force is asked to report to the next Executive Committee on the progress of its work, taking into account that the next stages of the work require sufficient time.

In discussion, Archbishop Kirill commented that the approach of the report was very general. There was no such phenomenon as "ideology" but only various ideologies, which differed greatly from each other and each of which required a different approach. If the aim of the study was to create a basis for realistic and fruitful dialogue, representatives of the various ideologies should be involved from the beginning.

Metropolitan Gregorios proposed that the suggestions for further work include the need to focus specifically on the feasibility, forms and goals of Christian/Marxist dialogue. With this addition, the Executive Committee <u>received</u> the report of the Sub-committee and <u>accepted</u> its recommendations.

B. Study on "The role of religion in conflicts"

Mr Koshy introduced an interim report on the study on "The role of religion in conflicts", including some analysis of the situations in Lebanon, Sudan and Sri Lanka, and the implications of Sharia (Muslim law). The following next steps were proposed: (a) a consultation to examine several of the aspects indicated in the paper along with analysis of the religious factors in the conflict situations mentioned and in Northern Ireland, Punjab (India), Mindanao (Philippines), Nigeria, and the Iran-Iraq war; (b) encouragement of the dialogue among religious communities in some specific conflict situations; (c) encouragement of educational programmes on living in pluralistic societies. The report was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the report of the Sub-committee as follows:

The Sub-committee recommends that the interim report on the study be received with appreciation and the proposed next steps be approved.

In addition the Sub-committee suggests a consultation on the implications of Sharia with participation from churches in countries concerned with a view to sharing experiences.

The following comments and suggestions are made with regard to the study:

a) The relationship of this study to the study on ideologies should be recognized.

b) The term 'fundamentalism' needs careful explanation, recognizing that fundamentalist groups cannot always be identified with reactionary political forces.

c) The affirmation that faith has relevance for the socio-political realm should take into account its implications including possibility of conflicts caused by religion.

d) Conflicts within religions also should be considered. Within one religion itself there may be different religious communities which are in conflict.

e) Innovative methods and models for conflict resolution should be explored.

The Executive Committee received the report and accepted the recommendation of the Sub-committee.

C. Theological diversity and coherence

The General Secretary said he hoped the theological undergirding of all WCC programmes would be seen in the various papers presented to the Executive Committee. The Staff Executive Group (SEG) was engaging in theological discussion with each sub-unit and regional task force. So far such discussions had been held with the Sub-unit on Dialogue and the Office for Income Coordination and Development and with the task forces on the Middle East, Latin America and Europe. The Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Rev. John V. Taylor, had given a series of meditations during Holy Week which had enriched the theological and spiritual life of the staff, and Prof. José Miguez Bonino had been invited to spend two months in Geneva to work with a staff group on the subject. It was hoped that one issue of Ecumenical Review would be devoted to the question of ecumenical theology. The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the Sub-committee had noted with appreciation that the proposals made by the General Secretary and the wishes expressed by members of the Executive Committee on this issue in February 1985 were now in process of implementation. It welcomed the various and promising attempts to further the concerns about theological diversity and coherence, including the involvement of the Executive and Central Committees in theological discussion. A progress report and assessment of the ongoing project should be presented to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

D. World consultations and conferences

The General Secretary introduced proposals for two world consultations, on Inter-Church Aid, Refugee and World Service, and Resource Sharing, and four world conferences, on Mission and Evangelism, Faith and Order, Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, and a Youth event. Staff discussion had led to the formation of several principles to be taken into account in planning the series of meetings, including the next Assembly:

a) proper timing because of the need for careful preparation, involvement of the member churches, fund-raising and extensive staff work;

b) planning in such a way that all the consultations and conferences are part of the preparatory process for the next Assembly;

c) identification of all the world conferences and consultations as WCC conferences/consultations on specific topics, and not only sub-unit or unit events;

d) no major event should be held within eighteen months to two years of the Assembly to allow time for planning and preparations on the part of the churches as well as the WCC;

e) it would be desirable to have an additional 18-month interval between Central Committee meetings in the years from now to the next Assembly.

Two possible timetables, based on holding the Seventh Assembly in July 1991 or July 1992, were offered for consideration. The proposals were referred to the Programme Sub-committee.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the Sub-committee recommended that the document presented by the General Secretary be forwarded to the Committee on the General Secretariat of Central Committee with the proposed timetable based on an Assembly in 1991 and the following comments:

a) 1991 is to be preferred as the year of the next Assembly for constitutional reasons, because of the need to renew the membership of the governing bodies, give new directions to the work of the Council and provide an occasion for the involvement of all member churches.

b) The timing of the world conferences and Assembly should take into account the schedule of world meetings of the Christian World Communions and other significant events in the life of the member churches.

c) The timetable should also list the joint meeting of the Commissions and Working Groups of Unit I in July 1986.

d) All of the world consultations and conferences are interlinked and they should all have consequences for the preparations and programme of the Assembly.

e) This timetable provides for three meetings of the Central Committee between this meeting and the Assembly and eight further meetings of the Executive Committee.

This was agreed.

Dr McCloud suggested that the Executive Committee recommend that each member church have at least one representative in at least one of the world conferences or consultations. It was agreed to pass this proposal to the Committee on the General Secretariat.

The Sub-committee recommended that the Executive Committee plan on having at least one of its meetings in conjunction with one of the world conferences, and that this matter be discussed further in March 1986. This was agreed.

The Sub-committee endorsed the plans for the international consultation on resource sharing and commended it to the attention of the Committee on the General Secretariat. It further recommended that the following planning group be appointed:

Bishop D.J. Ambalavanar, Sri Lanka
Archimandrite Nifon Mihaita, Romania, member of CICARWS Commission
Mrs Imogene Collins, Executive Secretary, Liberian Council of Churches, member of Africa Resource Sharing Group

Rev. James Cogswell, Director DOM/NCCCUSA
Rev. Warner Conring, Director KED, FRG, member of CICARWS Commission
Mrs Rosangela Jarjour, Syria, Moderator of Middle East Resource Sharing Group, member of Central Committee and CWME Commission
Mr Armando Luza Salazar, Peru, member of Latin America Resource Sharing Group and Youth Working Group
Rev. George Ninan, Hong Kong, CCA-URM Secretary
Rev. Israel Batista, Cuba, member of CCPD Commission
Mrs Margaretha Ringström, Study Secretary, Church of Sweden Mission

This was agreed.

7. ROMAN CATHOLIC RELATIONSHIPS

On behalf of the WCC members of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and the Task Force on Roman Catholic Relationships, Prof. Sabev presented an aide-mémoire on relationships with the Roman Catholic Church. The document was in three sections. The first concerned the commemoration of the Second Vatican Council, the reassessment of its work and present challenges with regard to the reception of its decisions on ecumenical issues. It was suggested that a statement might be made on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council, which would be marked by an Extraordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in Rome, 25 November to 8 December 1985. The paper then reviewed relations and cooperation between the WCC and RCC and concluded with a look towards the future, following the visit of Pope John Paul II to the WCC, and raised a number of questions for consideration by the Executive Committee.

In discussion Metropolitan Gregorios spoke of the need for further dialogue with the RCC on its understanding of the Church (an institutional or a spiritual entity?), its specific understanding of the papacy, and the tension in political matters arising from the fact that the Vatican is a state. Metropolitan Antonie pointed out that it was difficult to make a statement about ecumenical relationships when Roman Catholics themselves make contradictory affirmations. Archbishop Kirill felt that a statement to the Bishops Synod should not attempt to evaluate present WCC relationships with the RCC; this had been done in the Fifth Report of the Joint Working Group. The statement should concentrate on the WCC's understanding of the Second Vatican Council and its importance for basic ecumenical relations.

The General Secretary agreed that the statement should be an encouragement to participants in the Synod who want to affirm the ecumenical values of the Second Vatican Council. He suggested that the aide-mémoire should be revised and up-dated in the light of the discussion as a dossier of background information for the use of the Executive Committee. The question of Roman Catholic relationships was referred to the Programme Sub-committee and, on the proposal of the Officers, it was agreed to appoint the following

group to draft a statement for adoption by the Central Committee: Metropolitan Gregorios, Ms Skuse, Mr Maury.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos presented the following comments and proposals of the Programme Sub-committee:

a) The Sub-committee suggests that the aide-mémoire on Roman Catholic Relationships be received with appreciation as an Executive Committee internal document with particular purpose at the present meeting;

b) it requests (i) that the paper be improved and updated with references to sources used, appendices of relevant background material and provision of latest Roman Catholic official statements on ecumenism and assessment of Vatican II; (ii) that in such a revised form the aide-mémoire be sent to the members of Central Committee and serve as a reference document on Roman Catholic relations;

c) the Sub-committee considers the participation of the WCC through its Central Committee in the commemoration of Vatican II and in the assessment of its application in the life of the Church to be a legitimate ecumenical task and fraternal duty. In such a spirit it suggests that a special letter be prepared on this occasion and hope be expressed that the forthcoming Extraordinary Synod of Bishops will provide for further renewal of all churches and positive reception "of the decisions of Vatican II" on ecumenical issues;

d) the Sub-committee reaffirms the priority given to local ecumenism and endorses plans for assessment of ecumenical action and relationships with Roman Catholics at regional, national and local levels;

e) the invitation from Vatican departments to make comments and suggestions about preparatory documents related to the 20th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council or to common celebrations of important events such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and the World Day of Peace should be given due attention in order to promote ecumenical relationships;

f) collaboration should be encouraged particularly in programmes dealing with laity, youth and women, crucial social and ethical issues of our times;

g) the process of evaluation of Vatican II should also help reassess the ecumenical situation at large and the commitment of all churches to the ecumenical movement.

The Executive Committee <u>received</u> the report and <u>accepted</u> the recommendations.

Metropolitan Gregorios presented the proposed text of a letter from the Central Committee to the Bishops in the Extraordinary Synod of the Roman Catholic Church. A number of amendments were proposed and Metropolitan Gregorios was asked to revise the letter in the light of the comments made, for discussion in the Committee on the General Secretariat of the Central Committee.

8. PUBLIC ISSUES

A. Central Committee statement on the 40th anniversary of the United Nations

Mr Koshy presented a draft Central Committee statement and background information on the UN which would be considered by the Unit II Committee. Archbishop Kirill asked that the problem of disarmament be included in the statement.

B. Southern Africa

Mr Koshy introduced a note on the situation in South Africa and Namibia. He said that the paper had been out-dated by recent events, particularly with the imposition of an indefinite state of emergency on 20 July. The WCC had been in touch with the South African Council of Churches (SACC). It was agreed that the Officers should send a message of support to SACC. It was further agreed that the Officers should also send a message to the UN Security Council which was debating the situation in South Africa. Mr Koshy indicated that up-to-date information would be given to the Central Committee which might wish to take further action.

C. Visit to Central America

Dr Bührig, Metropolitan Gregorios and Mr Harper reported on the pastoral visit which they, together with Mr William Thompson, had undertaken to Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Dr Bührig said that the team had tried to gather as much information on the situation as was possible in eleven days. She spoke particularly of the brutal civil war being waged in El Salvador. Although violations of human rights were now less visible, the bombing of guerrilla areas continued and the number of people killed was no longer counted. But out of this suffering was growing a new, realistic and deeply grounded faith and new forms of Christian service which made no distinction between material and spiritual needs.

Metropolitan Gregorios quoted statistics on the assassinations and disappearances of civilians. In El Salvador alone, more than 50,000 civilians, including 4,000 workers of the Roman Catholic Church, had been assassinated in the last six years. Since 1983 the majority of killings and disappearances had taken place in rural areas rather than in the capital. The army was bombing villages which supported the guerrillas and killing many civilians. It seemed that the President was unable to control his

own army. Death squads continue to threaten individuals, particularly intellectuals. Metropolitan Gregorios stressed the importance of gathering as much information as possible on this situation and making it known to the general public. He proposed that the Executive Committee should make a statement about the repression of human rights and the killing of civilians in Central America in general and that a letter of pastoral care and concern should be sent to the member churches in Central America. A special statement might also be made about Nicaragua, which feels under constant threat of invasion by US forces.

Dr Bührig pointed out that not all members of the team had agreed on the wisdom of making a public statement. Many of the people they had met had asked them to denounce what was happening but the WCC must be careful not to endanger these people. Another proposal was that the Central Committee should be invited to undertake a day of fasting, in solidarity with Fr Miguel d'Escoto, the Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, who was fasting for peace and justice. The matter was referred to the Programme Sub-committee. Mr Koshy expressed concern about a multiplicity of statements on the same region. It was suggested that it might be more effective to incorporate the various proposals in a pastoral letter to the member churches of Central America, and to ask CCIA to provide detailed information for the churches on Central America.

At a later session Metropolitan Chrysostomos reported that the Programme Sub-committee proposed that:

a) a worship service be celebrated on Tuesday morning, 30 July, under the leadership of Metropolitan Gregorios and Dr Bührig, drawing upon the current efforts being made in Central America to fast and pray for peace in the region and the world;

b) there be set aside an all-day voluntary "fast for peace and the defence of life and against terrorism". This would be on Thursday, 1 August;

c) the Argentinian church hosts would be invited to participate, as representatives of the Latin American churches, in this call for fasting and prayer;

d) the announcement of the voluntary fast be made at the opening session of the plenary (on Tuesday, 30 July), and opportunity given to discuss and approve it by the Central Committee. A short statement for this purpose would be distributed to articulate the basis and objectives of the fast, as well as its modalities;

e) people here will be requested to indicate their intention to participate in the fast by Tuesday evening. A practical process will be set up, possible with the cooperation of the stewards, in this and other dimensions of this action;

f) a time of intercessory prayer for people suffering everywhere, and in Central America, be set aside at noon and during the evening on Thursday, in lieu of meals, at some places to be determined;

g) persons attending the Central Committee be encouraged to involve their own churches and constituencies in the expression of Christian solidarity, greetings and hope to Central American Christians and of people elsewhere, as they participate in this act of fasting and prayer during the next days and weeks throughout the world;

h) that the WCC inform the churches in Central America of its action this week, for the encouragement and building up of the ecumenical fellowship.

Members of the Executive Committee felt that the purpose of the fast as proposed was too general. Dr Love suggested that the proposal be to set aside an all-day voluntary fast for peace and the defence of life in Central America. It should be indicated that the proposal was inspired by the example of Fr Miguel d'Escoto in Nicaragua and a quotation from his statement might be added. This was agreed.

D. Other issues

Mr Koshy referred to two other issues on which the Central Committee might wish to take some form of action: (a) President Alfonsin in his address to Central Committee might raise the issue of international debts and, if so, it might be appropriate for Central Committee to respond; (b) Central Committee might also wish to respond to the presentation on the Argentinian experience regarding human rights.

Bishop Hempel and Archbishop Kirill asked that the question of weapons in space be considered and churches helped to understand the problem so that some common ecumenical position might be developed. Mr Koshy said that in a letter from the General Secretary the member churches had been asked to consider the matter. All the above issues would be taken up in the Unit II Committee.

9. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

In a closed session, Dr Barkat presented the list of allocations for 1985 proposed by the PCR Commission. He spoke of the many letters of gratitude from organizations of the oppressed and support groups for the solidarity of the WCC with their struggle which the grants represented. WCC grants to liberation movements helped to highlight the wider, non-military, aspects of the struggle, e.g. programmes for health, education and agriculture. It was heartening that support for the Special Fund was steady and, in some parts of the constituency, increasing.

There was a full discussion of the proposed grants. Dr McCloud expressed concern about making grants to support groups in the USA with purely local impact, especially in view of the limited financial support from the USA. The groups should be urged to seek funds locally and approach the churches for support. He asked that the WCC should raise the issue of their support with member churches in the USA. The Executive Committee asked the General Secretary to take the initiative to hold a meeting with the leaders of the American church to discuss issues related to PCR and report to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

It was agreed not to accept one proposal with regard to a support group. With this amendment, the Executive Committee agreed to approve grants in the total amount of US$396,000 (Appendix III).

Dr McCloud suggested that the PCR Commission consider the possibility of developing a category for groups whose purposes and objectives the PCR supports but where no financial grant is made. A list of such groups could be publicized together with the list of grants. The PCR Commission was asked to study the suggestion and make a proposal to the Executive Committee.

It was agreed that there should be an embargo on the public announcement of the grants until 1 October so that information might be received by the member churches prior to such announcement.

10. STAFFING MATTERS

A. Staff responsibilities for relationships

In February the Executive Committee agreed to postpone indefinitely the appointment of an Assistant General Secretary for Relationships on the understanding that these responsibilities would be shared by all staff and especially by the members of the General Secretariat.

In a closed session, the General Secretary presented a memorandum outlining proposals for the distribution of these responsibilities. He noted that the primary responsibility for monitoring and overseeing relationships is that of the General Secretary and his Deputies. In the implementation of these responsibilities, the regional staff task forces are primary partners. Responsibility for relationships with the eight geographical regions, national council of churches,the Roman Catholic Church and other confessional bodies would be distributed as follows:

General Secretary: In addition to overall responsibilities, he will retain direct responsibility for:

Relations with regional ecumenical bodies
Coordination of regional task forces
Relations with Latin America
Relations with the Caribbean
Relations with evangelical organizations

Deputy General Secretary (1)
- Relations with Europe
- Relations with Africa
- Relations with Eastern Orthodox churches
- Relations with the Roman Catholic Church
- Relations with Christian World Communions

Deputy General Secretary (2)
- Relations with USA and Canada
- Liaison with the U.S. Office
- Relations with Asia
- Coordination of relations with national councils
- Relations with non-member churches (other than RCC)

Deputy General Secretary (3)
- Relations with the Middle East
- Relations with the Pacific
- Relations with Oriental Orthodox Churches
- Relations with world ecumenical bodies

This sharing of responsibilities is subject to change and should be reconsidered whenever a new deputy is appointed.

It was also noted that the programme of ecumenical visits to churches, the regional meetings to be held in the coming years and staff travel are also a means of implementing relationships. Responsibility for these is also lodged in the General Secretariat. The Assistant General Secretary is moderator of the Staff Travel Group and the programme of ecumenical visits and regional meetings will be the responsibility of the Assistant to the General Secretary.

The General Secretary assured the Executive Committee that he would keep them informed about the effectiveness of these arrangements.

B. Maximum years of service rule

In a closed session, Dr Talbot introduced a report on the review of the Maximum Years of Service Rule undertaken by staff. It had been found that the rule had not achieved its purpose of turnover of staff. Statistics over the period 1976-1984 indicated that turnover had decreased from 13% to 12% per annum. However, among directors' positions turnover had increased from 4.4% to 15.5% and 75% of all directors had changed in the last five years. It was suggested that the following guiding principles should be taken into account if amendments are to be made in the Maximum Years of Service Rule:

- the existing three (four) year contract system should be maintained;

- contract renewal decisions should be based on satisfactory performance and mutual agreement;

- the question of age upon leaving the WCC should be considered when a decision is taken not to extend a contract. The same criteria cannot be used for lay and ordained staff and, even among the ordained staff, for those whose churches have differences in staff retirement age.

The report concluded that in view of the results of the study made, two courses of action were possible: a) to abolish the rule, with the understanding that the contract system and the performance appraisal system remain unchanged, and that a human resources planning programme be implemented, or, b) to amend the rule so as to allow certain exceptions.

In discussion a number of questions were asked and problems raised. The Executive Committee received the document but because of the limited time available did not feel it was in a position to appropriate it fully and to endorse its recommendations. It therefore agreed:

a) that the document should be presented to the Central Committee for its consideration, together with some of the comments made by Executive Committee members;

b) to recommend that final recommendations be brought to the Central Committee at its next meeting.

11. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

On the recommendation of the Nominations Sub-committee, it was agreed to recommend to Central Committee that:

a) the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada be accepted immediately as a full member of the WCC, continuing the membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada and the Lutheran Church in America - Canada Section;

b) the Baptist Community of Western Zaire, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria, and the Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola be accepted as full members of the WCC;

c) the Evangelical United Church of Angola and the Evangelical Pentecostal Mission of Angola be accepted as associate members of the WCC;

d) the following three councils be accepted as associate councils of the WCC: Christian Council of Tanzania, Christian Council of Zambia, and the St Vincent Christian Council.

12. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr Talbot presented the report and recommendations of the Sub-committee.

A. Membership of Central Committee

On the recommendation of the Sub-committee, it was agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that Dr Christine Woratz replace Ms Ulrike Doll, who had resigned, and that Mr Per Voksoe replace the Rev. Dr Gunnar Stalsett, who had resigned.

B. Membership of Executive Committee

It was agreed to nominate Mr Per Voksoe as a member of the Executive Committee to replace the Rev. Dr Gunnar Stalsett, on the understanding that this was the unanimous recommendation of the Lutheran churches in the Nordic countries.

It was further agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the present members of the Executive Committee be re-elected.

C. Joint Working Group

On the recommendation of the Sub-committee, it was agreed to recommend that the Central Committee appoint Mr Harry Ashmall as an alternate member of the Joint Working Group to substitute for any member representing the WCC who is unable to attend a meeting.

D. Membership of commissions and working groups

It was agreed to appoint the nine additional members and replacements proposed. It was understood that the four vacancies remaining would be filled at the next meeting of the Executive Committee according to the criteria already specified. It was noted that the actions of the Executive Committee in February and at this meeting were to be confirmed by the Central Committee.

13. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud presented the report as follows:

1. Organization of business

Given the relatively limited time available the Sub-committee decided to refer consideration of the 1984 accounts, the 1985 financial situation and the 1986 proposed budget to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee. It was noted that if the Executive Committee accepts the proposals for world conferences, consultations and meetings, the financial implications of these would also be considered by the Finance Committee of the Central Committee.

2. Report to Central Committee

The Sub-committee agreed that the preliminary report presented to the Executive Committee covered the points that had to be made in the first report to the Central Committee and that the Moderator of the Finance Committee should present it.

3. Ecumenical Centre expansion

As authorized by the Central Committee, the final estimates of the cost of the expansion were submitted to the Sub-committee for review prior to signature of the contracts, the definitive authorization to build having been granted by the Geneva authorities on 7 June, 1985.

The construction cost estimate had been revised and had increased by 10.2% over the preliminary budget due to the inclusion of a tunnel linking the library archives to the basement of the new wing and an increase in the cost of landscaping, previously underestimated. The Sub-committee considered the detailed budget totalling Sfr. 5,119,000. The effect of the budget increase on the economics of the project is the extension of the reimbursement period from 13 to 17 years, while serving a 5.5% interest on the outstanding capital, still well below a "normal" 30-year depreciation period.

The financing principles remain unchanged, i.e. the WCC will invest its own funds without calling on the churches.

Under these conditions, it is recommended that the Executive Committee authorize the General Secretary to proceed with the construction of the new wing, to be linked to the library by a tunnel in order to allow future expansion of the archives. Construction is expected to start in September and the building should be ready for first occupancy in January 1987.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

4. Wills, endowments and bequests

At various intervals in the last few years, the World Council of Churches has received significant amounts of money through wills, endowments and bequests.

In many but not all cases the will specifies clearly the intentions of the donor regarding both the use of the principal and of the interest earnings.

Basic to our present understanding is that funds received through wills and bequests which are not restricted are considered to be income of the year in which they are received.

Such funds are undesignated if they are willed or bequeathed to the Council as a whole, or designated if they are given for a particular programme or activity of the WCC.

However, it is also true that such funds are of an exceptional nature. The question therefore arises whether such funds should be set aside for particular purposes.

The Sub-committee suggests that the following options be considered by the Executive Committee:

a) that an Endowment Fund be created, only the interest being available for use for WCC priorities;

b) that a General Endowment Fund be created, the use of income to be determined by the Executive Committee with the option of using part of the principal to cover deficits on Undesignated Income if no other funds were available;

c) that current practice be continued and funds received be considered income of the year in which they are received;

d) that funds received be treated as income but allocated over several budget years.

The Sub-committee recommends that the Executive Committee refer this question, with its advice on the above options, to the Finance Committee of the Central Committee, which should also consider guidelines for levels of decision-making: such as use of interest to be decided by the Executive Committee, use of principal to be decided by the Central Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

5. Special funding report

5.1 International Youth Year (IYY)

OICD had been authorized to raise Sfr. 317,000 of which Sfr. 135,390 had been raised so far. The Sub-committee received a report on other requests made and on the pattern of expenditure in 1985 and 1986. Donors have not responded as hoped therefore careful monitoring of the situation will be required to ensure no over expenditure occurs. The Sub-committee requested that it

receive a full review at its next meeting in March 1986.

Inasmuch as the Central Committee approved the programme, Unit III may wish to remind Central Committee of this decision and of the continuing need for support.

5.2 Persons with disabilities - consultancy

The Sub-committee recommends that, provided the Central Committee approves the above programme, OICD be authorized to seek up to Sfr 450,000 over three years to cover the costs. Existing policy on the need to guarantee 75% of staff costs for the whole period of the consultancy, before staff could be hired, would be applicable.

The Executive Committe accepted this recommendation.

5.3 Government funding

The Sub-committee was informed that the consultation on government funding held in Toronto in February 1983 had recommended that a short-term consultancy be set up, under the Office on Resource Sharing, funded by the agencies attending. This is now being implemented and the agencies are being reminded of their agreement.

6. Alternative patterns of support

The Sub-committee received a progress report on the work of OICD on models of alternative giving and funding patterns by which member churches can contribute to the WCC. A data base has been established and correspondence will be undertaken with churches to identify further models of alternative giving and to find ways to help those who have not yet established a pattern of annual contribution.

The Sub-committee requested that a substantial report be brought in March 1986 subject to the availability of staff time in OICD.

7. Banks doing business with South Africa

The Sub-committee recommends that staff undertake a study with member churches to determine:

a) what churches have done in relation to this question;

b) the criteria used by member churches to determine which banks can be used;

c) the usefulness of the WCC criteria in helping member churches determine the banks they can use. The Sub-committee further recommends that this data be gathered and analysed by staff before further action is taken by the WCC.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

8. WCC Retirement Fund

It has been a tradition with the WCC that pensioners have a seat on the Board of the Retirement Fund, and that the representative of the pensioners be nominated by the pensioners themselves. The pensioners have nominated Mr Heinz Spaeter, and it is now recommended that he be formally appointed to the Board by the Executive.

This was agreed.

14. FUTURE MEETINGS

The following dates of meetings of the Executive Committee (inclusive of day of arrival and departure) were noted:

1986 8-19 March, in Kinshasa, Zaire (including local visits, 16-18 March)

14-20 September, in Geneva

1987 10-13 January, in Geneva

20-26 September

1988 6-12 March

7-10 August

15. CLOSING ACTIONS

After the conclusion of the meeting, members of the Executive Committee were entertained to lunch by the rector and staff of the Instituto Superior Evangélico de Estudios Teologicos (ISEDET).

APPENDIX I

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dr Marga Bührig Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz Joachim Held (Moderator) Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra (Vice-Moderator) Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator) Rev. Dr Emilio Castro (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania Archbishop Athanasios of Beni Souef Mr Bena-Silu Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo Ms Joyce Kaddu Archbishop Kirill of Smolensk Dr Janice Love Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan Rev. Meinrad Piske Ms Jean Skuse Dr Aaron Tolen
Observers:	Rev. Jacques Maury Bishop Sergiy of Solnechogorsk
Staff:	Rev. Dr Samuel Amirtham Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah Ms Marie B. Assaad Dr Anwar M. Barkat Rev. Jacques Blanc Rev. Coen Boerma Prof. Ion Bria Rev. Joan Campbell Ms Gwen Cashmore Mr Patrick Coïdan Mr Trevor Davies Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann Prof. Dr Adriaan Geense Rev. Dr David Gosling Rev. Charles Harper Mr Ninan Koshy Rev. William A. Perkins Dr Eric Ram Prof. Todor Sabev Rev. Carlos Sintado Rev. Dr Eugene Stockwell Fr Georges Tsetsis Mr Archibald Turnbull Rev. Bärbel von Wartenberg-Potter Rev. Dr Hans-Ruedi Weber

Interpreters:	Ms Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet Mr Vassily Makhnev Ms Ursula Zierl
Minute writers:	Ms Auriol Burrows Ms Shelagh Friedli

APOLOGIES

Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson
Members:	Mr Harry A. Ashmall Bishop Karoly Toth

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Programme

Metropolitan Chrysostomos (Moderator)
Dr Marga Bührig
Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel
Patriarch Ignatios IV (not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan
Rev. Meinrad Piske
Bishop Karoly Toth (not present)

Sub-committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud (Moderator)
Metropolitan Antonie
Mr Harry A. Ashmall (not present)
Mr Bena-Silu
Archbishop W.P.K. Makhulu (not present)
Ms Jean Skuse
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson (not present)

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Archbishop Athanasios
Dame R. Nita Barrow (not present)
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo
Archbishop Kirill
Dr Aaron Tolen

APPENDIX III

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM: LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1985

I. GROUPS OF THE RACIALLY OPPRESSED

	US Dollars	
A F R I C A		
*Africa National Congress (ANC)	77.000	
*Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)	33.000	
*South West African Peoples Organisation (SWAPO)	110.000	
*South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU)	5.000	225.000
A S I A		
Japan		
National Council of Minority People in Japan	10.000	10.000
O C E A N I A		
Australia		
Western Desert Land Council	8.000	
New Caledonia		
*Support Committee for Kanak Development	10.000	
New Zealand		
Pacific Peoples Anti Nuclear Action Committee (PPANAC)	5.000	23.000
E U R O P E		
Federal Republic of Germany		
*Interessengemeinschaft der mit Ausländern verheirateten deutschen Frauen e.V. - Verband bi-nationaler Familien und Partnerschaften (IAF)	5.000	
*Central Council of German Sinti and Roma	5.000	
France		
*Association des Travailleurs Haïtiens Immigrés en France	4.000	
Association des Travailleurs de Turquie	4.000	

Netherlands	US Dollars	
*Coordination Committee of Maroccon Workers in Europe	5.000	
U.K.		
*Southall Rights	4.000	
Yugoslavia		
Romani Union	5.000	32.000
N O R T H A M E R I C A		
Canada		
*Innu National Council	5.000	
*Kaska Dene Council	5.000	
Lubicon Lake Indian Band	5.000	
U S A		
*Asian-Pacific American Legal Centre of Southern California	5.000	
Coalition for the Homeless, Hawaii	2.500	
*Greensboro Justice Fund	7.000	
Hou Hawaiians	5.000	
*Inuit Circumpolar Conference	2.500	
Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Los Angeles	5.000	42.000
		332.000

II. SUPPORT GROUPS

		US Dollars
Australia	*Australian Anti-Apartheid Movement	3.000
Belgium	*Social Services for Foreigners	2.500
Canada	Black Theater Canada	4.000
Fed. Rep. of Germany	*Information Center on Southern Africa (ISSA) and Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAB)	3.000
France	*Mouvement Anti-Apartheid de France (MAA)	3.000
Ireland	*Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement	3.000
Japan	*Japan Anti-Apartheid Movement	3.000
New Zealand	*HART	4.000
U.K.	Namibia Communication Center	3.000
	*Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement	3.000
U.S.A.	*Africa News Service	5.000
	Free South Africa Movement	25.000
	National Namibia Concerns	2,500
		64.000

TOTAL: US $ 396.000

*Movements which received grants before